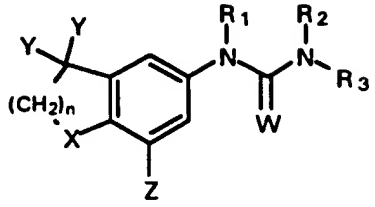
1. A compound having the structure:



wherein

(a) n is from 1 to about 3;

(b) X is selected from the group consisting of O, S, SO, or SO_2;

(c) Y is independently hydrogen or straight, branched or cyclic alkyl having from 1 to about 3 carbon atoms, or the Y's are bonded together to form an alkanyl ring having from 3 to about 7 atoms;

(d) Z is hydrogen or straight, branched or cyclic alkyl having from 3 to about 10 atoms other than hydrogen;

(e) W is O or S; and

(f) R_1, R_2 and R_3 are independently hydrogen, straight, branched or cyclic alkyl having from 1 to about 10 carbon atoms, aryl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, hydroxy, or alkoxy; or R_1, R_2 and R_3 may be bonded to form one or more rings, each ring having from 3 to about 7 atoms wherein one to three atoms may be heteroatoms.

2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein X is oxygen or sulphur, and R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen or methyl.

3. The compound of Claim 1 wherein each Y is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, methyl and ethyl; and Z is selected from the group consisting of C_4-C_6 branched alkanyl having 2 branches, unsubstituted C_3-C_6 cycloalkanyl.

4. The compound of Claim 3 wherein X is oxygen, both Y are methyl, and Z is t-butyl.

5. The compound of Claim 4 wherein R_3 is C_1-C_6 straight or single-branched alkyl or straight alkyl with a terminal cyclic alkyl, saturated or unsaturated with one double bond between non-terminal carbon atoms, or C_3-C_6 cycloalkanyl.

6. The compound of Claim 5 wherein X is oxygen, and R_1 and R_2 are hydrogen.

7. The compound of Claim 6 wherein n is one.

8. The compound of Claim 7 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, i-propyl, n-butyl, 1-methylpropyl, 2-methylpropyl, 1-methylbutyl, ethoxy, benzyl, phenethyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl and cyclohexyl.

9. The compound of Claim 8 wherein W is oxygen.

10. The compound of Claim 9 wherein R_3 is selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, n-butyl and ethoxy.

11. The compound of Claim 10 wherein R_3 is methyl, ethyl or n-propyl.

12. A composition comprising a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

13. A method of treating inflammation or pain comprising administation, to a human or lower animal in need of such treatment, of a safe and effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

14. A method of treating arthritis comprising daily peroral administration, to a human in need of such treatment, of from about 1 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg of a compound of Claim 1.

15. A composition comprising a compound of Claim 11 and a pharmaceutically-acceptable carrier.

16. A method of treating inflammation or pain comprising administation, to a human or lower animal in need of such treatment, of a safe and effective amount of a compound of Claim 11.

17. A method of treating arthritis comprising daily peroral administration, to a human in need of such treatment, of from about 1 mg/kg to about 20 mg/kg of a compound of Claim 11.